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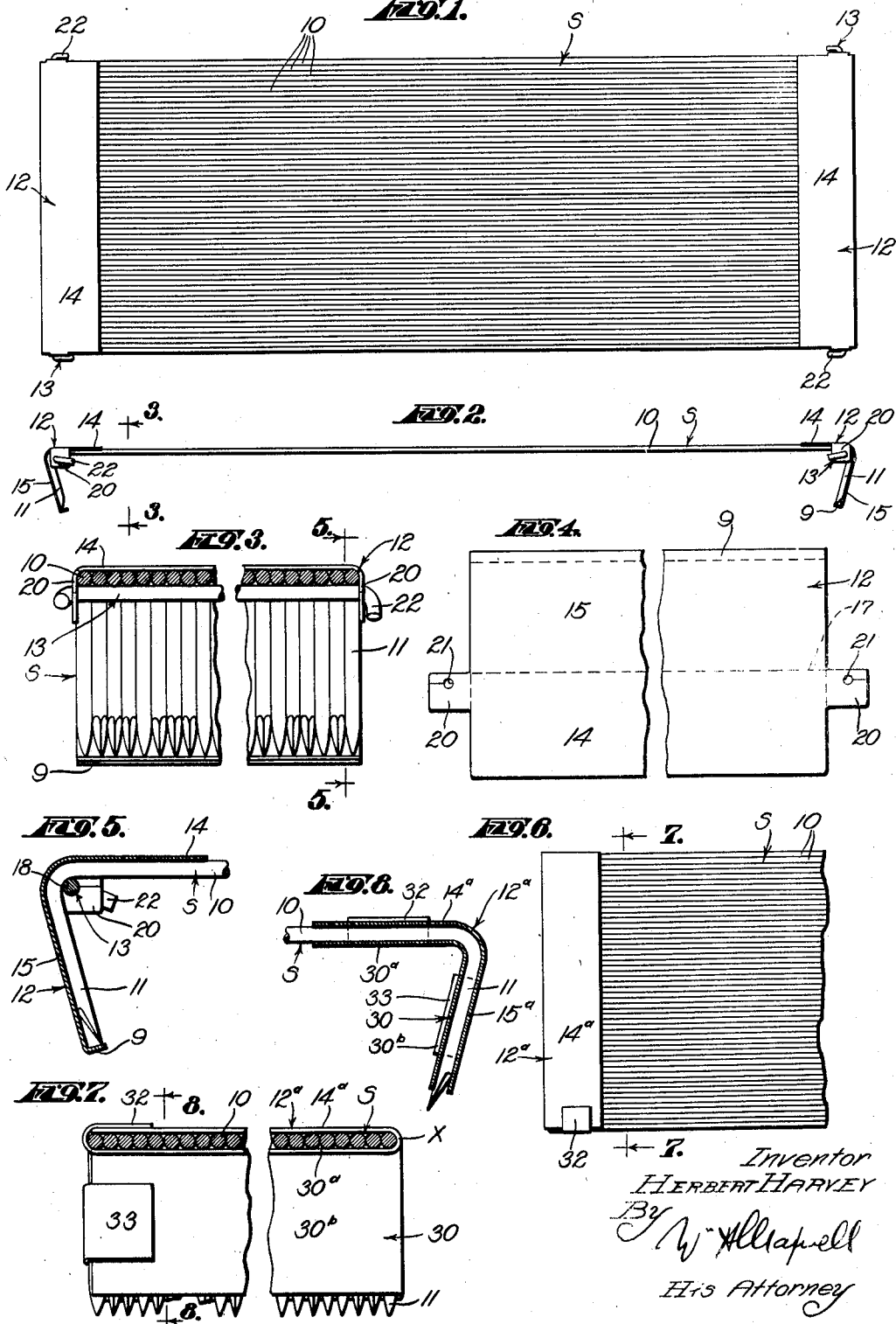
H. HARVEY

2,185,505

STAY BINDING STRAP

Filed Sept. 7, 1937

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Jan. 2, 1940.

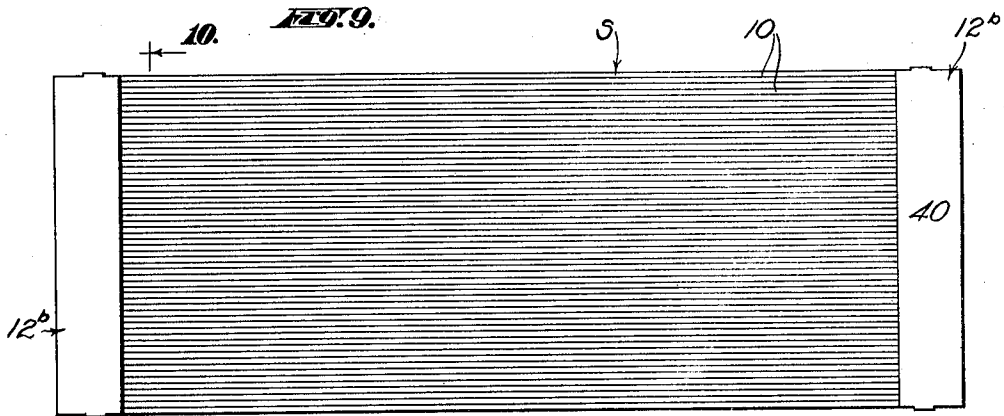
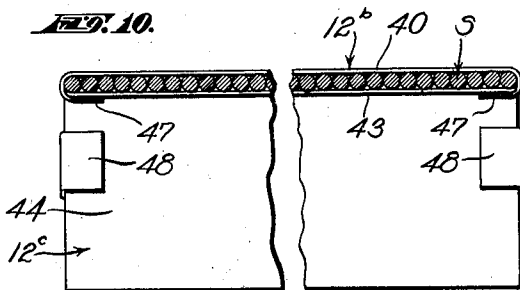
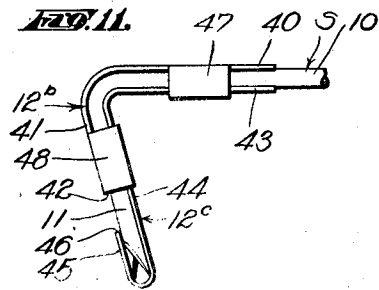
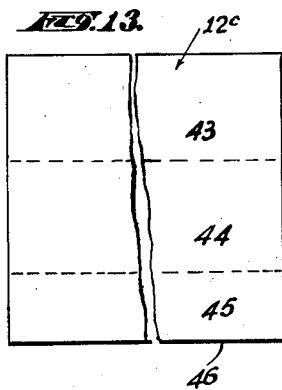
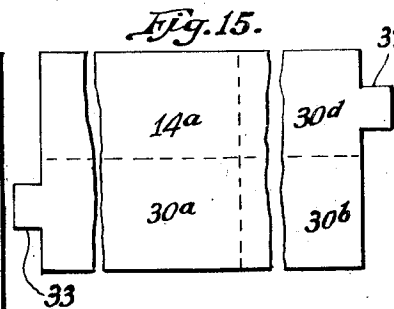
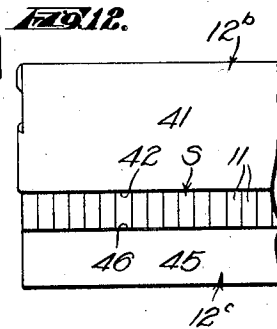
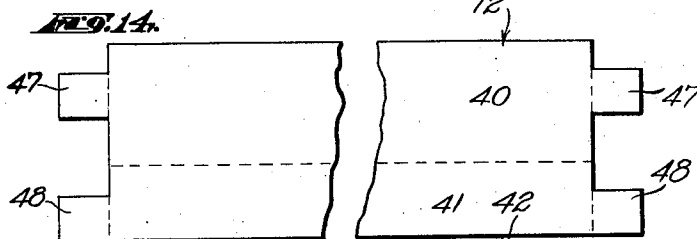
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2,185,505

STAY BINDING STRAP

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,185,505

STAY BINDING STRAP

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15 Claims. (Cl. 1—56)

This invention has to do with box stays, and has particular reference to clips or straps for holding a plurality of such stays in a compact, readily handled assembly or gang. A general object of this invention is to provide simple, inexpensive and readily removable clips or straps for binding a plurality of stays in a compact and orderly assembly for convenient handling and for easy insertion in the magazine of a strapping machine.

Another object of this invention is to provide clips or straps for binding together a plurality of box stays, or the like, that maintain the stays in corresponding positions with the bodies of the stays in side by side relation in a common plane and with the barbs projecting in a corresponding direction in side by side relation.

Another object of this invention is to provide clips or straps of the character mentioned that engage against and cover the outer sides of the aligned barbs to protect the pointed barbs and to lessen the danger of injury to the workman when handling the bundles of stays.

Another object of this invention is to provide a stay binding strap of the character mentioned embodying two strap parts of substantially L-shaped cross section, one part being arranged against the inner sides of the stay bodies and their barbs and the other part being arranged against the outer sides of the stay bodies and their barbs.

Another object of this invention is to provide devices of the character mentioned that embody rods or wires engaging in the corners where the barbs join the bodies of the stays to hold the straps where they bind the stays together, which wires are readily removable to permit the disconnection of the straps from the stays when the stays are to be inserted in the magazine of a strapping machine.

Another object of this invention is to provide straps of the character mentioned that each include an integral sheet metal body having a part engaged in the corner where the barbs join the bodies of the stays, which part may be easily bent back to permit the disconnection of the straps from the stays when the stays are to be inserted in the strapping machine.

A further object of this invention is to provide binding devices or straps of the character mentioned that are quickly and easily applied to the plurality or gangs of stays.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of typical preferred

forms and applications of the invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevation view of what I will term the outer side of a gang of stays showing clips or straps of one form of the invention binding the gang of stays at its ends. Fig. 2 is an edge or side elevation of the assembly shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 3—3 on Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan view of a blank of which one of the straps shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 is constructed. Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 5—5 on Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a fragmentary view of the outer side of an assembly or gang of stays showing another form of binding device or strap arranged thereon. Fig. 7 is an enlarged detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 7—7 on Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a fragmentary detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 8—8 on Fig. 7. Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing another form of stay binding strap of the invention. Fig. 10 is an enlarged transverse detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 10—10 on Fig. 9. Fig. 11 is an enlarged fragmentary edge view or side view of the assembly shown on Figs. 9 and 10 illustrating one end portion of the assembly. Fig. 12 is a fragmentary end view of the assembly illustrated in Fig. 9. Fig. 13 is a plan elevation of the member or blank of which the inner body part of one of the straps shown in Fig. 9 is formed, Fig. 14 is a plan elevation of the member or blank of which the outer body part of one of the straps shown in Fig. 9 is formed, and Fig. 15 is a plan elevation of the blank of the strap shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8.

The binding devices or straps of the present invention are provided to bind together a plurality of stays or staples of the character employed on boxes, fruit and vegetable crates, etc. The stays S illustrated in the drawings are formed of lengths of wire and each includes an elongate body 10 and barbs 11 projecting laterally from the opposite ends of the body. The stay bodies 10 are straight and of substantial length. The barbs 11 are integral parts of the stays S and project from the opposite ends of the stay bodies 10 in substantially the same direction. In practice the barbs 11 project from the stay bodies 10 at acute angles. The outer ends of the barbs 11 are sharpened to be more readily driven into the wood or material of the box or crate. The several stays S of the bundle or gang are of the same size and shape. The binding devices or

straps of the invention are provided to hold a plurality of stays S in a compact pack or gang where the stay bodies 10 lie in a flat common plane and the barbs 11 project in corresponding 5 directions at the opposite ends of the gang or assembly.

The invention provides a binding clip or strap at each end of the plurality or gang of stays S. In the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 10 1 to 5, inclusive, of the drawings each binding clip or strap includes a body 12 engaging the outer sides of the gang or plurality of stay bodies 10 and engaging the outer sides of a row of barbs 11 and a rod or wire 13 removably connected with 15 the opposite ends of the body 12 and engaging the inner sides of the stays S where the barbs 11 join the stay bodies 10. As the two clips or straps employed on a gang of stays are identical I will proceed with a detailed description of one strap, it being understood that such description is 20 equally applicable to the other clip or strap.

The body 12 of the device or strap is preferably formed of sheet metal. In practice the body 12 may be formed of sheet metal of relatively 25 light gauge. In accordance with the invention the body 12 is integral and is substantially L-shaped in transverse cross section comprising two angularly disposed flange parts 14 and 15. The body 12 has a length substantially equal to or 30 slightly greater than the width of the gang of stays S so that the ends of the flange parts 14 and 15 are at the opposite edges of the gang. The flange part 14 of the body 12 lies flat against the outer sides of the stay bodies 10 to assist 35 in maintaining the bodies of the stays in a common plane. The flange part 15 lies flat against the outer surfaces of the aligned barbs 11 to assist in preventing endwise movement of the stays S and to thus assist in holding the barbs 11 in 40 line. The flange part 15 is preferably comparatively wide to substantially cover the outer sides of the barbs 11 and to have its outer edge adjacent, aligned with, or beyond the sharpened points of the barbs to form a protective shield. The angle 45 between the planes of the flange part 14 and the flange part 15 is acute and is such that the flange parts may lie flat against the outer surfaces of the stay bodies 10 and barbs 11, respectively. A laterally or inwardly turned lip 9 is provided at the outer longitudinal edge of the 50 flange part 15. The lip 9 overlies or covers the points of the barbs 11 to form a protective shield for the barbs. It is a feature of the invention that the strap body 12 is simple and inexpensive to manufacture. In practice the body 12 may be 55 formed of a flat blank of sheet metal, as illustrated in Fig. 4 which blank is bent along the line 17 to have the angularly related flange parts 14 and 15 described above.

The rod or wire 13 is arranged at the under side or inner side of the gang of stays S and has its opposite ends detachably connected with the 60 body 12 of the device or strap. In accordance with the invention the wire 13 may be a simple length of rod or wire having the desired strength and rigidity. The wire 13 may be straight throughout the major portion of its length and is adapted to engage in the corner 18 where 65 the barbs 11 join the bodies 10 of the stays S.

It is a feature of the invention that the wire 13 is secured to the body 12 in such a manner that the stays S are held or bound between the 70 wire and the body 12. The means for connecting the wire 13 with the body 12 is such that the wire may be easily removed to permit the detach-

ment of the wire and strap body 12 from the gang of stays S. This means includes lugs or tabs 20 on the strap body 12 for cooperating with the wire 13. The tabs 20 are provided on the opposite ends of the flange part 14 of the body 12 5 and are turned in or over at substantially right angles to the part 14. The tabs 20 are integral with the body 12 and have their outer edges adjacent or substantially flush with the adjacent ends of the flange part 15. The lugs or tabs 20 10 located and formed as just described engage against the surfaces of the barbs 11 and the bodies 10 of the endmost stays S to maintain the gang of stays in side by side relation. Each lug or tab 20 has an opening 21 for receiving the 15 wire 13. The openings 21 are located so that the wire 13 fits against or cooperates with the gang of stays S at the corner 18 in such a manner that the bent portions or corner portions of the stays S are bound or gripped between the wire 20 and the bent portions of the body 12 connecting its flange parts 14 and 15. It will be apparent how the wire 13 engaging the stays S at the corner 18 operates to hold the body 12 in against 25 the surfaces of the stay bodies 10 and the stay barbs 11. The wire 13 is preferably of sufficient length to protrude outwardly beyond the tabs 20.

The invention includes means for preventing premature or unintentional longitudinal displacement of the wire 13 from the openings 21 30 of the tabs 20. In the particular case illustrated in the drawings the end portions 22 of the wire 13 are bent over to positively prevent endwise movement of the wire 13 in both directions and thereby prevent displacement of the wire from 35 the openings 21. It is to be understood that other means may be employed to prevent displacement of the wire 13 from the openings 21, for example, the protruding end portions of the wire 13 may be waved, corrugated or roughened 40 so that they do not readily pass through the openings 21.

It is believed that the staple binding straps of the present invention, illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, of the drawings will be readily understood from the foregoing detailed description. 45 The devices or straps are very easily applied to the gang of stays S. The body 12 of a strap is merely arranged against the gang so that its flange 14 rests on the outer sides of the stay bodies 10 and its flange part 15 rests against the outer surfaces of a row of barbs 11. The wire 13 is then passed through the openings 21 and its end portions 22 bent over. As just described, 50 the wire 13 engaging in the corner 18 holds the strap body 12 against the stay bodies 10 and barbs 11 so that the end portions of the stays and their barbs are held in common planes and are gripped between the wire and the body 12. The lugs or tabs 20 at the opposite ends of the strap body 60 12 engage the endmost stays S to maintain the gang or group of stays in a compact engaging side-by-side relation. The tabs 20 engage against the barbs 11 of the outermost or endmost stays S to definitely prevent the stays from turning on their axes and thereby prevent the barbs of the stays from projecting beyond the ends of the flange parts 15 of the body 12. 65

The bent over portions 22 of the wire 13 may reinforce the tabs 20 and prevent them from 70 bending outwardly to allow separation of the adjacent stays S. The device does not prevent any undesirable projections on what I have termed the outer side of the gang of staples S. The flange parts 14 lie flat against the bound 75

gang of stays and the flange parts 15 lie flat against their barbs 11. Accordingly, the groups or gangs of stays S bound together by the straps of the invention may be conveniently stacked and nested one within the other for packing, shipment, etc.

When it is desired to insert or arrange the stays in a strapping machine it is only necessary to bend back or cut off the bent over portions 22 at one edge or end of the assembly and then pull the wires 13 upwardly or outwardly to disengage them from the tabs 20. This frees the strap bodies 12 from the stays S so that the stays may be entirely free in the magazine of the strapping machine. The end portions 22 of the wires 13 may be readily cut off with a suitable wire cutting tool.

Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings illustrate another form of binding device or strap of the invention. The device or staple binder illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings includes, generally, a strap body 12^a comprising a flange part 14^a, a flange part 15^a and an inner part 30.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings the strap body 12^a may be integral and may be formed from a single blank or sheet of metal shaped and folded to have the flange parts 14^a and 15^a and the inner part 30. The flange parts 14^a and 15^a are substantially identical with the parts 14 and 15 described above. The part 14^a is a flat portion adapted to lie against the outer sides of the bodies 10 of the slips S. The flange part 15^a is a flat plate-like portion adapted to lie against the outer surfaces of the barbs 11 at one end of the assembly or gang of barbs. The flange parts 14^a and 15^a are in substantially V-relation, as best illustrated in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

The inner part 30 of the strap body 12^a engages against the inner sides of the stay bodies 10 and the inner sides of the row of barbs 11. The part 30 is generally V-shaped in transverse cross section having a wing or flange 30^a substantially parallel with the flange part 14^a and a flange 30^b substantially parallel with the flange part 15^a. One end of the inner part 30 is integrally joined with the flange parts 14^a and 15^a, that is, the body 12^a of the strap is bent at X so that the flange part 14^a is integrally joined with the flange 30^a and the part 15^a is integrally joined with the flange 30^b. The body 12^a being bent in substantially U-shape at X engages the adjacent end stay S, a portion of the bend X engaging against its barb 11 to definitely prevent outward turning of the barb. The end portions of the stay bodies 10 are held or engaged between the part 14^a and the flange 30^a and the barbs 11 are held between the part 15^a and the flange 30^b. Fig. 8 of the drawings clearly illustrates the manner in which the parallel parts of the bent body 12^a engage against the opposite sides of the stay bodies 10 and the barbs 11. The flange 30^a is comparatively wide and the flange 30^b may be of substantially the same width as the part 15^a so that the barbs 11 are substantially entirely contained between the part 15^a and the flange 30^b.

Means are provided to connect the free ends of the part 14^a and the flange 30^a and the part 15^a and the flange 30^b. In the particular case illustrated an integral lug 32 is provided on the free end of the flange 30^a and is bent over to lie against the outer surface of the free end portion of the part 14^a. A similar lug 33 is provided on the free end of the body part 15^a and is bent

over to engage against the exposed surface of the flange 30^b. The lug 32 holds the part 14^a and the flange 30^a in proper binding or holding engagement with the bodies 10 of the stays S. The lug 32 also assists in holding the gang of stays S together in engaging side-by-side relation. The lug 33 holds the part 15^a and the flange 30^b in binding or holding engagement with the barbs 11 and assists in maintaining the stays S in engaging side-by-side relation. The lug 33 also prevents outward swinging or turning of the adjacent barbs 11.

It is believed that it will be apparent how the plurality or gang of stays S is held in proper condition for easy handling and for ready insertion in the magazine of a strapping machine by two straps of the character illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings. The integral body 12^a of the strap is shaped or bent to engage about both the inner and outer surfaces of the end portions of the staples S and the barbs 11 to positively maintain the staples in a compact series or gang. When it is desired to remove the straps from the stays S so that the staples may be employed in a strapping machine it is only necessary to bend back the lugs 32 and 33 of the straps and then pull the bodies 12^a upwardly to disengage them from the gang of stays. This entirely frees the stays for use in the machine. The form of binding strap illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings is particularly inexpensive to manufacture and simple to assemble on the stays as the straps are formed of single, integral sheets of metal.

Figs. 9 to 14, inclusive, illustrate a form of the invention in which each of the stay binding devices or straps includes, generally, two body parts 12^b and 12^c arranged against the inner and outer surfaces, respectively, of the gang of stays S.

In accordance with the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 9 to 14, inclusive, of the drawings, the outer body part 12^b is a sheet metal member shaped and proportioned to lie against the outer surfaces of the bodies 10 of the gang of stays S and to lie against the outer surfaces of the barbs 11 at one end of the gang. The outer body part 12^b is an elongate member of substantially L-shaped cross section comprising a flange 40 for bearing against the bodies 10 of the stays and a flange 41 for bearing against the outer sides of the barbs 11 at one end of the gang of stays. The angle between the flanges 40 and 41 is acute so that the flanges properly cooperate with the staple bodies and barbs and the corner portion of the body part 12^b joining the flanges 40 and 41 is rounded or curved to conform to the curved corner portions of the stays S. The flanges 40 and 41 of the body part 12^b have their opposite ends adjacent the longitudinal edges of the gang of stays S. The flange 40 is of substantial width to have extensive cooperation with the bodies 10 of the stays. In the preferred construction the barb engaging flange 41 is of less width to have its longitudinal edge 42 spaced a substantial distance from the points of the barbs 11.

The inner body part 12^c of the form of strap illustrated in Figs. 9 to 14 of the drawings is an elongate sheet metal member. The body part 12^c is substantially L-shaped in transverse cross section having two angularly related flanges 43 and 44. The flange 43 lies against the inner surfaces of the staple bodies 10 and is of substantially the same width as the flange 40 of the body

part 12^c. The flange 44 lies against the inner surfaces of the barbs 11 at one end of the gang of stays S. The corner portion of the body part 12^c which joins the flanges 43 and 44 is curved to conform to the corners of the stays S where their bodies 10 join the barbs 11. The opposite ends of the flanges 43 and 44 are adjacent the longitudinal edges of the gang of stays S. In accordance with the invention the flange 44 is of sufficient width to completely cover the inner sides of the barbs 11. The outer portion of the flange 44 is bent over to form a hook or lip 45 which engages around the points of the barbs 11 and bears on the outer surfaces of the barbs adjacent the points. It is to be noted that the longitudinal edge 46 of the lip 45 is spaced from and substantially parallel with the longitudinal edge 42 of the flange 41. The lip 45 forms a protective shield for the points of the barbs 11 and materially assists in binding the stays S together.

The invention provides means for connecting the two body parts 12^b and 12^c together so that the gang of stays S is tightly bound between them. Two spaced lugs 47 and 48 are provided on each end of the body part 12^b. The lugs 47 are spaced from the longitudinal edge of the flange 40 and are adapted to be bent over to engage against the inner surface of the flange 43 of the body part 12^c. The lugs 47 thus operate to hold the flanges 40 and 43 in parallelism whereby the said flanges bind the bodies 10 of the stays S together in a common plane. The lugs 48 are at the outer edge portion of the flange 41 and are adapted to be bent over to bear against the surface of the flange 44 of the body part 12^c. The lugs 48 maintain the flanges 41 and 44 in substantial parallelism so that they bind the row of barbs 11 together in a common plane. The lugs 47 and 48 in addition to connecting the two body parts 12^b and 12^c so that they bind the stays together operate to hold the stays S in close side-by-side relation as illustrated in Figs. 9, 10 and 12 of the drawings. The lugs 47 and 48 are such that they may be readily bent back or out to disconnect the two body parts 12^b and 12^c so that the strap may be readily removed from the gang of stays when the same is being inserted in a strapping machine.

The form of staple binding strap illustrated in Figs. 9 to 14, inclusive, of the drawings is particularly effective in maintaining the gang of stays S in the proper bound together relation. The two body parts 12^b and 12^c are of substantial width to have extensive engagement with the inner and outer surfaces of the stay bodies 10 and the barbs 11. The two L-shaped body parts 12^b and 12^c engaging against the inner and outer surfaces of the stays at their opposite end portions definitely prevent relative lateral movement and displacement of the stays. The lip 45 on the inner body part 12^c extends around the points of the barbs 11 to form a protective shield and to assist in maintaining the barbs in proper relation and to prevent relative endwise movement between the stays S. When it is desired to remove the straps from the gang of stays S it is only necessary to bend back the lugs 47 and 48 whereupon the body parts 12^b and 12^c of the straps may be readily separated and disengaged from the stays.

Having described only typical preferred forms and applications of my invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may ap-

pear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A device for binding together stays having barbs at their ends, said device comprising a body having a part engaging the outer surfaces of the stays, and a part engaging the outer surfaces of the barbs at one end of the stays, and a detachable part extending between the opposite ends of the body and engaging the inner sides of the stays where the barbs join the stays.

2. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body having two angularly related flange parts extending transversely of the series of stays, one flange part engaging the outer sides of the barbs at one end of the series of stays, the other flange part engaging the outer sides of the stays adjacent said end of the series of stays, a removable member extending transversely of the series of stays at the inner sides of the stays and means to connect said member with the opposite ends of the body.

3. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends to be in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising two parts, one at the inner side of the series of stays, the other at the outer side of the series of stays, one of said parts having projecting portions to engage the barbs at the ends of the series to prevent displacement of the stays from the end of the series and to overlap the other part to hold it against the stays and maintain them in fixed relation in a unitary series.

4. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device including a body having two angularly related flange parts extending transversely of the series of stays, one flange part engaging the outer sides of the barbs at one end of the series of stays, the other flange part engaging the outer sides of the stays adjacent said end of the series of stays, a member extending transversely of the series of stays at their inner sides and engaging the stays in the corners where the barbs join the stays proper and means to connect said member to the opposite ends of the body.

5. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device including a body engaging the outer sides of the stays and extending transversely of the series of stays, and a rod removably connected with the opposite ends of the body to extend transversely of the series of stays and engage the inner sides of the stays where the barbs join the bodies of the stays.

6. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer sides of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, lugs at the ends of the body, and a wire extending between the lugs and engaging the inner sides of the stays.

7. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body extending

transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer sides of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, lugs at the ends of the body, the lugs having openings, and a wire received in said openings and engaging the inner sides of the stays.

8. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer sides of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, lugs at the ends of the body, the lugs having openings, a wire removably received in the openings and extending transversely of the stays to engage their inner sides in the corners where the barbs join the bodies of the stays, and the ends of the wire being bent to retain the wire in the openings.

9. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising angularly related parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer surfaces of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, and angularly related parts releasably engaged with the first named parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the inner surfaces of the stays and the barbs at said end of the series.

10. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body comprising angularly related parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer surfaces of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, and angularly related parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the inner surfaces of the stays and the barbs at said end of the series, one end of the second mentioned parts being integrally joined with the corresponding end of the first mentioned parts, and means for releasably holding the other ends of the first and second mentioned parts in position to hold the stays including overlapping portions on said part.

11. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising a body comprising angularly related parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the outer surfaces of the stays and the barbs at one end of the series, and angularly related parts extending transversely of the series of stays and engaging the inner surfaces of the stays and the barbs at said end of the series, the body being integral.

12. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in

side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising two parts, one at the inner side of the series of stays and one at the outer side of the series of stays, said parts each being substantially L-shaped in cross section and both contacting both the bodies of the stays and the row of barbs at one end of the series.

13. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising two separate parts, one an outer part having integrally joined flanges, one flange lying against the outer surfaces of the stays and the other flange lying against the outer surfaces of the row of barbs at one end of the series of stays, the other part being an inner part having integrally joined flanges one of the last named flanges lying against the inner sides of the stays and the other of said last named flanges lying against the inner sides of the barbs at said end of the series, and means joining the ends of the said inner and outer parts at the ends of the series of stays.

14. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising, a part having a flange lying against the outer surfaces of the stays and a flange lying against the outer surfaces of the row of barbs at one end of the series of stays, a part having a flange lying against the inner sides of the stays and a flange lying against the inner sides of the barbs at said end of the series, a lip on the last named flange engaging over the points of the barbs, and means releasably holding the said parts together.

15. A device for binding a series of stays having laterally projecting barbs at their ends, the stays being arranged in side by side relation with their barbs in corresponding positions, the device comprising an outer element including a flange extending transversely of the stays and engaging the outer surfaces of the stays, and a second flange joined with the first mentioned flange and extending transversely of the barbs at one end of the series of stays and engaging the outer surfaces of the barbs, an inner element extending transversely of the stays at the inner sides of the stays and engaging in the corners where the barbs join the bodies of the stays, and connections between the ends of the elements at the ends of the series of stays holding the elements together to hold the stays in said side by side relation, at least one of said connections being releasable to permit the easy disengagement of the elements from the series of stays.

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